

French-Chickasaw War of 1736 notebook S1556

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July 17, 2015

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts
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Summary Information

Repository	Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Bienville, Jean Baptiste Le Moyne, sieur de, 1680-1767
Creator	D'Artaguiette, Pierre
Title	French-Chickasaw War of 1736 notebook
Date	1924
Extent	0.01 Cubic feet
Language	French
Language of Materials	Materials in French and English.
Text [Folder]	S1556

Preferred Citation

French-Chickasaw War of 1736 notebook, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

Historical Note

The war between the Chickasaw and the French in 1736 consisted of two battles in present-day Tupelo, Mississippi. The governor of French Louisiana, Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville, ordered the attacks against the Chickasaw in the spring of 1736.

Louisiana, a province of New France in North America, spanned most of the drainage basin of the Mississippi River from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. It was divided into two sections, Upper and Lower Louisiana. Upper Louisiana, also known as Illinois Country, consisted of French territory in today's U.S. states of Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri. Lower Louisiana comprised much of the present-day states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. The Chickasaw people's lands bisected France's colony making travel between Upper and Lower Louisiana hazardous for French travelers, particularly as the Chickasaw frequently traded with the English, France's long-standing rival. In addition, the Chickasaw refused to capitulate to Bienville's demands to surrender Natchez refugees, who had fled to their Chickasaw allies following their tribe's devastation during the Natchez wars (1715-1716; 1722-1724; 1729-1731).

Bienville ordered Pierre D'Artaguiette, the military commander of Upper Louisiana, to march his troops south from Fort de Chartres to attack the Chickasaw villages in present-day Mississippi. Despite receiving word that Bienville and his force from Lower Louisiana were late, D'Artaguiette assaulted the village of Ogoula Tchetoka on May 25, 1736, with French regulars and militia and Native American warriors from allied northern tribes of Iroquois, Arkansas, Miami, and Illinois. The Chickasaw soundly defeated the French and their allies and D'Artaguiette and many of his men were killed.

Bienville, with French troops, African slaves, and Choctaw warriors attacked three fortified hilltop villages, Ackia, Tchoukafalaya, and Apeony on May 26, 1736. The Chickasaw successfully repelled the French force, which retreated the following day.

Sources:

Items in the collection.

Green, Richard. "The French-Chickasaw War of 1736," Part One. The Chickasaw Nation. Last updated August 20. Accessed July 17, 2015. <http://www.chickasaw.net/Our-Nation/History/Historical-Articles/History/Homelands/The-French-Chickasaw-War-of-1736.aspx>.

Green, Richard. "The French-Chickasaw War of 1736 (Ackia)," Part Two. The Chickasaw Nation. Last updated August 20. Accessed July 17, 2015. [https://www.chickasaw.net/Our-Nation/History/Historical-Articles/History/Homelands/The-French-Chickasaw-War-of-1736-\(Ackia\).aspx](https://www.chickasaw.net/Our-Nation/History/Historical-Articles/History/Homelands/The-French-Chickasaw-War-of-1736-(Ackia).aspx).

O'Neill, C.E. "Le Moyne de Bienville, Jean-Baptiste." *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. Accessed July 17, 2015. http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio.php?id_nbr=1486.

Wallace, Joseph. *The History of Illinois and Louisiana Under the French Rule; Embracing a General View of the French Dominion in North America with Some Account of the English Occupation of*

Illinois. (Cincinnati: R. Clarke, 1897), 288-297. Accessed July 17, 2015. <https://archive.org/details/historyillinois01wallgoog>.

Biographical Note

A French army officer and veteran of the Natchez wars, Pierre D'Artaguiette was appointed major-commandant of Upper Louisiana, based at Fort de Chartres (located in Randolph County, Illinois today). D'Artaguiette led the offensive against the Chickasaw village of Ogoula Tchetoka on May 25, 1736. He was thrice-wounded in battle, having taken two bullets to the left arm and lower abdomen and an arrow to the right wrist. Defeated by the Chickasaw, D'Artaguiette, along with at least 22 Frenchmen, including officers, soldiers, and a Jesuit priest, was captured and executed by burning on the day of battle, according to transcribed reports in the collection.

Born in Montreal, Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville (1680-1767), sometimes known as the "Father of Louisiana," served France as a naval officer and explorer in his youth. He officially became governor of Louisiana in 1732, a region of New France in North America. Bienville mastered Mobilian Jargon, the Muskogean trade language used primarily by the Chickasaw and Choctaw peoples, making him the only governor in New France to communicate with Native peoples without using an interpreter. His governorship was characterized by a policy of fortification, trade concerns, the import of African slaves, crop experimentation, natural disasters, and two disastrous expeditions against the Chickasaw (1736; 1739-1740) under his leadership. Bienville retired in 1743 and lived in Paris, France until his death on March, 7, 1767.

Sources:

Items in the collection.

Library of Congress. "Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville." Global Gateway. Accessed July 17, 2015. <http://international.loc.gov/intldl/fiahtml/fiatheme2c4.html>.

O'Neill, C.E. "Le Moyne de Bienville, Jean-Baptiste." *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. Accessed July 17, 2015. http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio.php?id_nbr=1486.

Wallace, Joseph. *The History of Illinois and Louisiana Under the French Rule; Embracing a General View of the French Dominion in North America with Some Account of the English Occupation of Illinois*. (Cincinnati: R. Clarke, 1897), 288-297. Accessed July 17, 2015. <https://archive.org/details/historyillinois01wallgoog>.

Scope and Contents

This notebook contains handwritten copies of documents from the Archives Nationales in Paris, France, transcribed in 1924, relating to the war between the French and the Chickasaw Indians in 1736. The records include accounts of the French troops' expedition against the Chickasaw tribe, given on June 28, 1736 and on March [May] 27, 1736 by Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville; a 1736 letter from Monsieur de Cremont to the minister; two accounts of the defeat of Pierre D'Artaguiette at the Chickasaw village of Ogoula Tchetoka on March [May] 25, 1736; and a report by Lord Drouet de Richarville on June 10, 1736 concerning these events. The records include a list of officers and soldiers who died in the conflict.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged by subject.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation from the Indiana Historical Society on 1924/05/22, and then as a transfer from the general collection of the Indiana State Library on 1938/06/06.

Accruals

No further additions are expected.

Processing Information

Collection processing completed 2015/04/02 by Nikki Stoddard Schofield. EAD finding aid created 2015/04/02 by Nikki Stoddard Schofield. EAD finding aid revised 2015/07/16 by Brittany Kropf.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Archives nationales (France).

Geographic Name(s)

- France--Colonies--America--History--18th century
- Louisiana--History--To 1803

Subject(s)

- Ackia, Battle of, Miss., 1736
- Chickasaw Indians
- Indians of North America--Wars--1600-1750
- Military
- Notebooks, sketchbooks, etc